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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

August, 1991 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by November 1, 1991, their membership will become effective on that date.

2365-MT Jatinder Mahajan, c/o Punjab Salt Traders, G. T. Road Damtal (H. P.), Damtal Pin 176 403, Himachal Pardesh, India
(Indian Coins - Ancient & Medieval)

2366-MT John R. McIntrye, 734 S. Boulder Hiway, No. 316, Henderson, Nevada 89015 -- (Coins and Paper Money of Peru, Coins and Paper Money of Israel, Nabatea, Judea, Mexican Revolution from Chihuahua)

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

I. Acknowledgement is made below to those who have donated material to the NI Library:

David Kwapisz

KA70.Vanr:1983:IC
VANAJA, R.
Indian Coinage
Pub. 1983, 115pp, illus.

KA60.SpTa:1991:SCIGC
SPINK-TAISEI
The Skanda collection of Indian gold coins.
A Spink-Taisei auction catalog, pub. 1991, 66pp, w/plates.

Norman D. Nicol

RG35.GroP:1971:FAS
GROTEMEYER, PAUL
Franz Andreas Schega 1711-1787. Munzstempelschneider und medailleur an der kurfurstlichen munze zu Munchen.
Pub. 1971, 75pp, w/plates.

Robert Plemmons

BB90.WarJ:R969:GFC
WARREN, J. LEICESTER
Greek Federal Coinage.
1969 reprint of 1863 work, 73pp, not illus.

II. In addition to the above we would also like to thank Norman Nicol and Robert Plemmons for additional donations of numismatic material.

III. The Library has been fortunate in obtaining an extensive collection of slides on Egyptian coins donated by former NI member Mr. D. G. Cooke. If any NI member would like to borrow the slides to see if they can be worked up into lecture sets for the NI Library to loan out, we would be most happy to pass them on. Collectors of Egyptian gold coins should also obtain a copy of the catalog of the forthcoming Spink & Son Zurich auction scheduled for September 16th, as five of Mr. Cooke's gold crowns will be included.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian
Jim Haley, Periodical Librarian

FROM THE MAILBOX

Reader says June issue "exceptionally fine issue"

I'm a little prejudiced in favor of the subjects the June *NI BULLETIN* presents; but that aside, I wanted to congratulate you and the team on an exceptionally fine issue.

Randolph Zander
Alexandria, Virginia

IN MEMORIAM

KARY T. "ED" EDWARDS, Founder and Life Member

We are saddened to report the death on May 17, 1991, of Kary T. "Ed" Edwards after a lengthy illness.

Ed was one of the fourteen Founder Members of Numismatics International and was an avid collector of Odd and Curious and Primitive Monies.

Ed served as Secretary-Treasurer of NI in 1965, Vice-President in 1970 and President in 1971. He was also active in many NI activities and committees and was a leading member of the early publication efforts of the *NI BULLETIN*. He served as proof-reader for the editor of the *NI BULLETIN* from its inception to shortly before his death.

Much of the early success of NI was due to Ed's efforts in support of the organization. It was unfortunate, indeed, when his illness forced him to curtail many of his activities in support of the organization.

ABOUT THOSE COUNTERSTAMPS -

SPANISH COPPER COINS AND THEIR COUNTERSTAMPS IN THE 17th CENTURY

Paul F. L. de Groot, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, NI #1786

(Continued from June, 1991)

5. FROM 1636 TO 1642

The situation was becoming desperate. The wars did not go well. The treasury was close to exhaustion. The duke of Olivares increased his efforts to fully integrate all Iberian states under one crown with Castile. This would enable him to extort larger contributions from them. The result was disastrous. In 1640 Portugal in the west and Catalonia in the east broke out in serious rebellion, and Andalusia in the south was on the verge of following. Both countries declared their independence. The central government could not raise enough troops to combat these uprisings. Largely due to its inability to pay, the crown could barely raise an army of 15,000 to combat the rebellion in the west, considered to be the more serious. Portugal did in fact regain its full liberty after a hard fight. Catalonia placed itself under the protection of the French king Louis XIII, and soon even recognized him and his heirs as its prince (Fig. 10, seizens of Tarrega and Barcelona).



In 1639 little silver had come to Spain from the Americas, and in 1641 the plate fleet did not arrive at all. The treasury was desperately in need of more money, and tapped any source that it could find. In February 1641 a decree ordered that all the unstamped coins that

were current for four maravedis, that is, the 8-maravedis of the old mints, which had been reduced to four maravedis in 1628, were to be called in and countermarked to raise their value to eight maravedis. The two and one-maravedi pieces kept their old valuation. The coins of the Ingenio also kept their value. The marks were similar to those of 1636, with a crowned date on the obverse, and the mintmark below the value VIII on the reverse (which, in contradiction to the wording of the decree, is not crowned, Fig. 11).



Great confusion was still being caused by the circulation, side by side, of coins minted by the Ingenio, of the same size, but valued at different rates. In order to remedy this problem it was decided in October 1641 to counterstamp the Ingenio's unmarked four and two-maravedis pieces too. The marks chosen were again the crowned date on the obverse, and the values of XII (Fig. 12) and VI (Fig. 13) on the reverse. The mintmarks appear below the value. Though most possible combinations of value and mintmark have been found for 1641, this is not the case for 1642. Not surprisingly, many false counterstamps began to appear at this time. This practice continued every time the value of the coins was raised and became easier in time, because the coins lost any semblance to minted pieces. Even official stamps have been found on any copper flan at hand, such as Roman and Byzantine coins!

All these variations in the valuation of the circulating currency gave rise to many complaints. The confidence in the billon coins dwindled to the extent that at one point in 1642 a silver real was "worth" three reals in copper currency. As a result, and at the request of the Cortes, a drastic measure was taken in September 1642. By this, all coins which, in compliance with the decrees of 1636 and



a



b



c



d



e



f



g



h

Fig. 12



1641, had been raised in value to 12- and 8-maravedis pieces, were to be reduced to the value of two maravedis. Those coins that had been raised to six maravedis, and any coin that might have circulated for four maravedis (one can see by this terminology how far even the authorities had become confused) should be reduced to one maravedi. However, the attempt at cleaning up the monetary situation did not last very long. In March 1643 already, the valuations were changed again. The calderilla that passed for two maravedis as the result of the measures of 12 September 1642, now was raised to eight maravedis, and what passed for one maravedi was raised to four. As was generally the case, the products of the Ingenio were valued higher, and appreciated to 12 and 6 maravedis.

6. FROM 1642 TO 1653

Meanwhile, the domestic and international problems continued to sap Spain's resources and morale. In 1643 its once-invincible army was soundly beaten at Rocroi by the French, a great shock for the country's pride. Bad harvests, bad management, a general impotence of the Duke of Olivares and his clique to cope with the core of their problems, all contributed to the widespread malaise. Olivares was finally forced out of office, and died insane in 1645. Unfortunately, his successors were as incompetent as he had been in managing the state's affairs (their own were well looked after!). A new state bankruptcy in 1647 did not leave any numismatic traces, but contributed to Spain's willingness to participate in the negotiations that led to the end of war in Germany, and to the official independence of the Dutch Republic in 1648. In Naples a revolt under Masaniello led to a more serious one led by the French Duke of Guise from 1647-



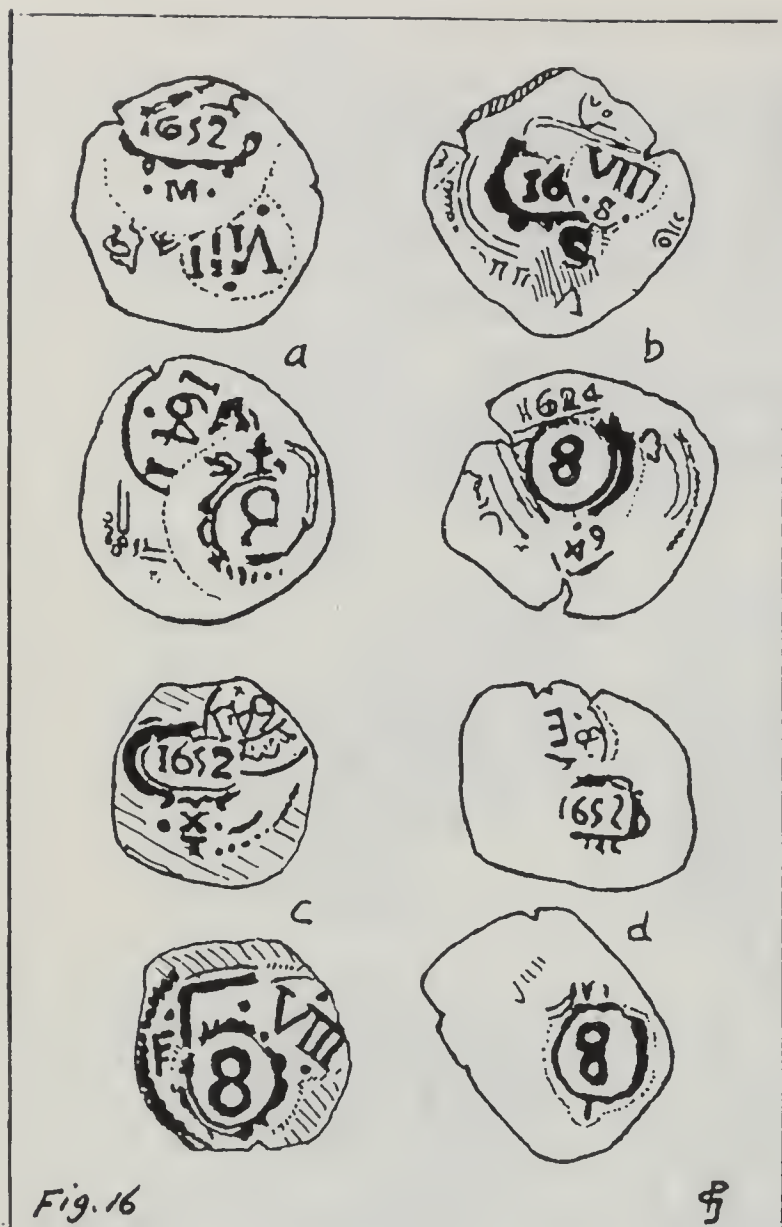


Fig. 16

1648 (Fig. 14a). Luckily for Spain, internal turmoil made France nearly powerless from 1648 to 1653, enabling the former to recover most of Catalonia, and the city of Barcelona in 1652 (Fig. 14b).

By this time it was decided once more to make an effort at cleaning up the currency mess. On 11 November 1651 it was ordered that all coins, except the calderilla struck before 1597, would revert to their valuation of before September 1642, with the understanding that the largest pieces in circulation would henceforth be current for 8 maravedis, and the smaller pieces for 4 maravedis. As there would now not be any coins of two maravedis, these were now to be minted at a quarter of the weight of the 8 maravedis pieces.

Though I have never seen any of these pieces, or even seen their exist-

ence mentioned, a later decree refers to them. The stamps consisted on the large pieces of the date in an oval that often was ornate, and on the reverse an 8 in a usually ornate circle (Fig. 15 and 16). The mintmark, when present, was placed under the oval. Madrid changed its mark to a simple M. A T surmounted by an x is ascribed to Toledo. A few coins, from Madrid only, are found with the date 1651, the rest carry the year 1652. The stamp of the four maravedis is quite different. It consists on the obverse of the date, always 1652, with a flower above and the mintmark below, all within a circle, and on the reverse a large 4 between flowers, also within a circle (Fig. 15c). This value is much scarcer than the eight maravedis.

Then followed a bewildering number of decrees. On 21 June 1652 the previous decree was annulled, and all coins reverted to a quarter of their value, except the newly minted two-maravedis pieces, which became current for one. The calderilla continued to circulate at eight and four maravedis. The counterstamped coins of 1651 (and presumably 1652) would only remain valid till the end of the year. Then, on 11 November 1652, the calderilla, the only subsidiary coinage with an intrinsic value, because of its silver content, was recalled, and

kept at the mints until such time that it could be used for new mintings. The other coins now were to remain in circulation at their reduced value.

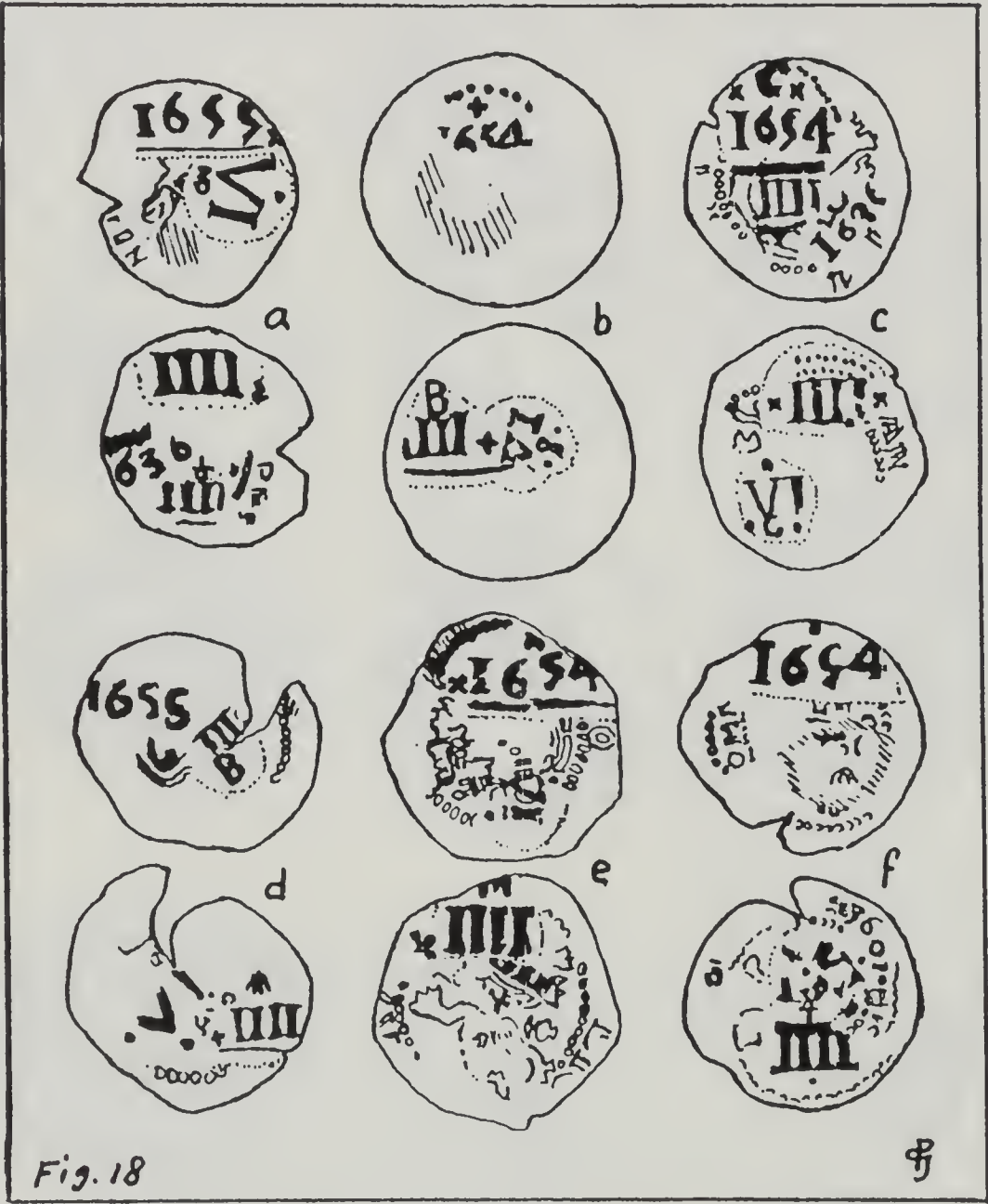
7. FROM 1653 TO 1658

By this time France had recovered from its internal dissensions, and was back into the fray. So was Cromwell's England. As a result of these renewed onslaughts, Spain's financial troubles increased again. The lack of liquidity - real silver remained hoarded despite the efforts of the government - forced the authorities to put the stockpiles



Fig. 17

of calderilla back into circulation. By decree of 22 October 1654 the large pieces were marked for eight, and the smaller pieces for four maravedis. Luckily for the confused user, and for the collector, these counterstamps differ considerably from the already present ones of 1602 and 1636. They consist of halfcircles outlined in dots, with on the obverse the date, and on the reverse the value as VIII (Fig. 17) andIIII (Fig. 18). The mintmarks can be found on either side, and frequently fall outside the circle segment.



(To be continued)

THE COINAGE OF THE LIVONIAN ORDER, KNIGHTS OF THE SWORD 1425-1561

John S. Davenport, Coral Gables, Florida, NI #602

(Continued from June, 1991)

WALTHER von PLETTENBERG 1494-1535 (Continued)



25 FERDING 1515, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1526, 1527

CONSERV(A) - NOS - DNA. Madonna and child over 4 part arms.
+ or & MONETA. NOVA. REVALIE. Date over small city arms.
A. DON for DNA.

The 1515 has the madonna without sceptre, child on right arm (A), with sceptre, child on left arm (B), and without sceptre, child on left arm (C).

H-C 4465, 6390-1, 8465-7. F 115-8, 22. S 332-50.



26 FERDING 1527, 1528

* CONSV A ooo NOS o CRIS. As above.
* MONETA o NOVA - REVAL(IE). As above.
F 119. S 353-5.



27 FERDING 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534

x SALV(AN) - N(O) - CRIS(T). As above.
+ MONETA x NO(VA) x REVAL(IE)(NS). As above.
H-C 6393, 5-7, 8468-9. F 122-30. S 351-376.



28 FERDING 1535

SALVA - NOS o-o CHRISTHE o-o. As above.

* MONETA & NOVA & ARIHENT & REVAL. As above.

F 131. S 377.

29 SCHILLING 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535

WO(L)(T) (DE) - PLET(T)(E) - ENB - M(A)(G)(I) - LIVOF (ONE).

Family arms on Order Cross.

MO(NE) - NO(VA) - RIGENSIS. Date, small city arms.

H-C 4323-7, 6246-8, 10581-4. F 465,8,70,2. NUM. 271-380.



No. 29



No. 30



30 SCHILLING 1535,n.d.

MAG - IS(TRI) - LIV - ONIE. 35 or n.d. under arms.

& MONETA & NO(VA) & REVAL(I)E. o35o or n.d. over arms.

S 387, 407. NUM. 4-5.



31 SCHILLING n.d.

* MAGISTRI & LIVONIE. Family arms.

MON - (ETA) - WCVJENDEN. Order cross.

Many misspellings.

H-C 4301. F 481. S 17-30.



32 ARTIG 1517, 1518, 1523, 1527, 1528, 1530-1535, n.d.

Family arms on Order Cross, various dots around.

Small city arms with various dots, divided date, blank or * or fish below.

H-C 4238-9, 6249,55-6, 10585-7. F 448-76. S 123-8. Riga.

33

ARTIG n.d.

MA - GIS - LIV - ONI
 MONETA REVALIE
 Many misspellings.
 S 409-432.



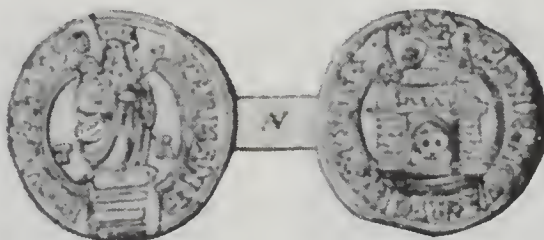
34

ARTIG n.d.

Ø MAGISTR LIVOIIE. Family arms.
 MO(N) - ETA - L - OEI. Order Cross.
 F 422. Wenden.



HERMANN BRUGGENEY-HASENKAMP 1535-1549



35

DUCAT (FLORIN) 1535

HERMAN ▲ D - BRVG ▲ M ▲ LIVO. Madonna and child separating
 T - R over family arms.
 MONE + NOVA + RIGENS + 1535. Great city arms.
 TR for Thomas Ramm. mm. Riga.
 H-C 4330. F 483. Friedberg p. 265, #5.



36

TALER 1536

o* HERMAN * BRVG -o-o NA * MAGIS * LIVO *. Master standing
 with sword, shield below.
 MONETA * NOVA * ARGENTEA * REVALIENSIS *. Cross in sprays.
 1536 above. M - G at sides.
 S-R 5045. F 134. S 484. Dav. 9376.



37 TALER 1540

Similar to #36.

Similar to #36 with 1-5-4-0 in angles of cross.

S-R 5046. F 139. Dav. 9377.



38 1/2 MARK 1547

HER + D + BRV(G) + H + K + M * LIV-0.-. Master over 4 part arms.
MONE + NO + RIGENS: 47. Great city arms.

F 503. S 129-30. M. p.23.

39 FERDING 1547

HER x D -x BRU x G - H x K x M - x LIVO
x MONE x NOVA x RIGENSI x 47

S 131. Unique.

40 SCHILLING 153:, 1535-1549, n.d.

HER. D - BR(U)[V](I)(E)G(D). - HA. M(A). - LIVO.

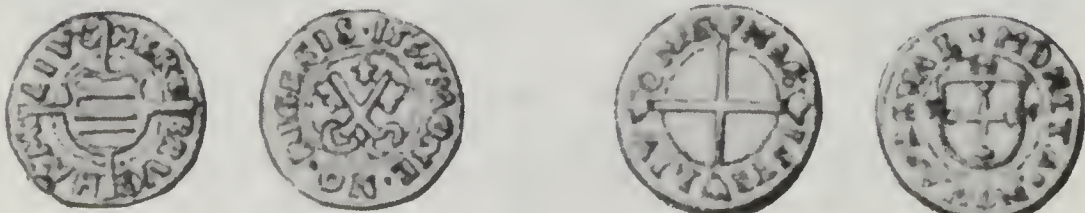
Family arms on Order Cross.

.MO(N)(E). NO. RI(G)E(N)S(IS). Whole or half date.

Small city arms.

Many mixed up dates.

H-C 4331-7, 6257-80, 8363, 10588. F 484-521. S 132-202.



No. 40

No. 41

41 SCHILLING 1535, 1536, n.d.

MA(G) - IST(RI) - LIV - (ONIE). Order Cross.
 MONETA * NOVA * REV(A)(L). Half date, small city arms.
 A. With .36. on reverse. H-C 6402.
 H-C 6398-01, 8470-4, 10651. F 133. S 436-50.

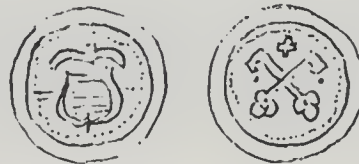


42 SCHILLING 1536-1545, 1547-1548, n.d.

MAG - IS(TRI) - LIVO - NI(E). Order Cross
 MONE(T)(A) * REVALIE *. Half date. Small city arms.
 H-C 4466-71, 6403-25, 8475. F 135-148. S 451-83.

43 ARTIG n.d.

Family arms.
 Arms of Riga.
 F 508.



JOHANN von der RECKE 1549-1551

44 SCHILLING 1549, 1550, 1551, n.d.

IOAN - D: RE - D. O. M - LIV(O). Family arms on Order Cross.
 * MONE * NO * RIGENS(IS), 49, 550, 51. Small city arms.
 H-C 4338, 6281-2, 8364. F 522-5. S 203-9.



No. 44



No. 45

45 SCHILLING 1549, 1550, 1551

MAG - IS(TRI) - LIV - ONIE. Order Cross.
 & MO(NE): REVAL(IE). &. Date. Small city arms.
 H-C 6426-37. F 149-50. S 485-93.



46 SCHILLING 1549, 1550

.MA. - .GIS. - .LIV. - .ONI. Order Cross
 & MONETA & NOVA REVAL. Date above city arms.
 F 151-2.

(To be continued)

A COIN OF SULTAN MAHMUD II

FROM THE ALGIERS MINT

Kenneth M. MacKenzie, Tenaflly, New Jersey, NI #364

Collectors and students of the coins of the Ottoman Empire will be familiar with the various coin types struck at the mint in Algiers (Jaza'ir) in the reign of the sultan Mahmud II (1223-55 AH) 1808-1839 AD which have been published. Only in his regnal year 13 (1819-20 AD) were coins struck with his accession date (1223) and the regnal year, whereas the others were inscribed with the actual *hegira* year date.

Two silver coins with the regnal year 13 were published by Stanley Lane-Poole in 1883.¹ The obverse of these coins were stamped with the sultan's tughra (with a sprig at the right), and on the reverse the "13" with the words "duribe fi Jaza'ir 1223" was inscribed. The larger coin was 25mm and the smaller 21mm, with weights of 5.350 gr and 4.890 gr. They are rare coins and it is not known how many of each were struck.

Now, it is of interest to record another, larger coin of the same regnal year. It is a billon coin, 35mm, with a weight of 16.75 grms. This specimen has a milled edge and has been dented slightly by rough handling in circulation. The design is more elaborate than the two coins mentioned above. There is a tughra with a sprig but it is enclosed in a beaded circle-band in which the personal eulogy is inscribed, this formula has been in use on Ottoman coins from 855-1223 AH. There is an outer hatched border.



Obverse: Sulṭān al-barrayn wa-khāqān al-baḥrayn al-sulṭān bin sulṭān
(Sultan of the Two Lands and Khaqan of the Two Seas, the
Sultan son of the Sultan)

Reverse: al-Sulṭān Mahmud Han bin Sulṭān Abdul Hamid Han dam mülkühu

On the reverse, the regnal year, mint name and year date are contained in a beaded circle-band in which the name of the sultan and that of his father, followed by the words "may his kingdom endure", there is also an outer hatched border.

The design of this coin is similar to the gold coin, *Jadid(new) Rumi Altun* which Mahmud struck in Constantinople in his regnal years 9-15. It was adopted in his 21st regnal year for the new kurus struck in Baghdad (29mm, 4.00 gr). Another coin, but without the tughra device but otherwise similar, is the well known 2 *qurush* dated 1245 from the mint in Tunis.

No further coins with the tughra were struck in the Algiers mint until 1245 (1829 AD) when the 1/6, 1/3 and 1 *budju* denominations were issued based upon the Constantinople lighter-weight standard, during the time when Algiers was divided into a French sector and a western part ruled by a native amir.

1 - Lane-Poole (Stanley). *The Coins of the Turks in the British Museum. Class XXVI.* (London 1883).

NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS FROM SELECTED LITERATURE

"For Indian coinage we have to take into account the rules concerning the weight and denomination set down by the *Dharmasastras*, but above all the coins themselves. The lists of weights and coins found e.g. in the code of Manu (VIII, 132 ff.) go to great detail, although a great part of it is mere theorizing without factual importance. The basis is always the *rati* (weight of a gunja berry: 0.118 g.). The standard piece of gold is the *suvarna* of 80 *ratis*. The most important silver piece is said to be the *purana* or *dharana*, of 32 *ratis*, and the copper piece is the *karaspana*, of 80 *ratis*. Each of them has various multiples and subdivisions. But actual use, as reflected in the Buddhist texts, seems to have known only one standard piece, the silver *apana*; it seems that when afterwards it went out of use it was called by the legal texts *purana* 'the old one'. The standard copper coin was really the *masaka*, of which sixteen went to a *karsapana*. As can be seen the ratio of 1 rupee = 16 annas is very ancient."

Taken from p. 402-3, *History of Mankind* Volume 2 The Ancient World, by Luigi Pareti, Paolo Brezzi and Luciano Petech. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers 1965).

(Submitted by R. J. Hébert)

A SILVER 25 PAISA OF NEPAL

Nicholas Rhodes, Hythe, Kent, England, NI #927

Towards the end of 1990 a few examples of a previously unknown silver striking of the 25 Paisa of King Mahendra Vir Vikram Shah (KM 771) appeared in Kathmandu. The coins apparently came from a member of the Royal household, and it may be assumed that all the original striking were sent to the Palace, and have only just surfaced. The coin is interesting for two reasons:

1. It is the only fine silver striking known to me from the reign of King Mahendra. Indeed, it is the only such off-metal striking of any Nepalese cu-ni coin type that I have noticed of any period. The specific gravity of 10.4 confirms a silver content of c.95%, compared with a specific gravity of 8.9 for the normal cu-ni striking of this type. The weight, 2.99g, is also slightly more than the 2.9g of the normal issue.
2. The date, 2017 VS (AD 1960), shows very clear signs of having been very crudely altered on the die. Two minor horizontal protuberances to top and bottom right indicate that the "seven" was altered from a "six", but also the strong horizontal line across the centre of the seven indicates that the original numeral was a "five". Indeed, close examination of the dies, and in particular the various die flaws that appear on both obverse and reverse, show that this silver piece was struck from the same pair of dies that was used to strike the normal cu-ni coin dated 2015 VS, confirming the date sequence.



25 Paisa, Silver, 2017 VS



25 Paisa, Cu-Ni, 2015 VS

No strikings are known from the die with the date 2016, and no cu-ni strikings dated 2017 have yet been found. Indeed, it was only in the following year, 2018 VS, that cu-ni 25 paisa coins of this type were first struck in large numbers for circulation, as only 4,359 pieces were struck in the year 2015.

The discovery of this unexpected new date and off-metal striking makes one wonder what other new varieties may be hidden in the recesses of the Royal Palace in Kathmandu.

NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS

Attic Currency & Its Value

"For the convenience of readers unfamiliar with Attic currency, the following table is given:

- 1 talent = 6 minae = 6000 drachmae
- 1 mina = 100 drachmae
- 1 drachma = 6 obols

Owing to the very different standards of living and patterns of spending it is useless and even misleading to try to translate Attic into modern currency, especially now when the value of money is changing so fast. The following facts will give a rough idea of the value of money in fifth- and fourth-century Athens (fourth-century prices and wages are higher than fifth). In the Erechtheium accounts the standard wage (for citizens, metics, and slaves alike) is 1 drachma per day, occasionally 1 1/2 drachmae. In the Eleusian accounts of 329-328 and 327-326 B.C. unskilled labourers get 1 1/2 drachmae per day, skilled men 2 or 2 1/2 drachmae. In 351 B.C. Demosthenes. . . reckons 2 obols a day as ration allowance for soldiers and sailors: as he is trying to prove that his projected standing force can be cheaply maintained he is probably being optimistic. . . . For the maintenance of two girls and a boy, with a male nurse and a maid, in about 400 B.C. Lysias allows 1,000 drachmae a year and Demosthenes, . . . speaking in 363 B.C., accepts 700 drachmae a year as a reasonable sum for the maintenance of himself and his sister and mother during his minority. These work out at about 3 1/3 obols and nearly 4 obols each per day, which seems very little, but rent is not included and Greeks considered that women and children ate much less than men. . . ."

From: A.H.M. Jones, "The Economic Basis of the Athenian Democracy," In *Athenian Democracy: Triumph or Travesty?*, ed. Jill N. Claster. (Huntington: Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, 1978), p. 26, n. 1.

Submitted by Donald S. Yarab.

NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS FROM SELECTED LITERATURE

SMALL CHANGE IN BEIRUT IN 1910

"When I had paid my bill next morning in the French **pension** to which I had been directed, my worldly wealth was reduced to one English sovereign. I turned in at the office of (Thomas) Cook and Son, tossing the piece to the native clerk, asked him to change it into coin of the realm, of small denomination. He turned the sovereign over several times, bit it, laid it carefully away, and set to pulling out boxes and drawers and dumping the coins they contained on the counter before me. There were pieces of copper, pieces of silver, pieces of bronze, tin, iron, nickel, zinc; coins half the size of a dime, coins that looked like tobacco tags, coins big enough with which to fell an ox, coins with holes in them, coins bent double, saucer-shaped coins, coins that had been scalloped around the edge by some erstwhile possessor of artistic temperament and hours of leisure; and still the clerk continued to pour out coins until I felt in duty bound, as a tolerable honest member of society, to call a halt.

"'Say, old man,' I put in, 'that was only a sov. I gave you, you know.'

"'Yes, yes, I know,' panted the native, dumping another handful that rattled down the sides of the heap like a bucketful of stones on the pile under a stone crusher, 'I know, and I am very sorry I have not enough to change him. But I give you this and he just make him up.'

"He tossed towards me a gold piece of ten francs.

"'What!' I cried, 'You don't mean that I get that heap and ten francs besides, for one quid?'

"'Aywa, efendee, yea, that makes one pound,' he answered.

"I pawed over the heap. Each rake brought to light pieces of new and unique pattern. 'Fine collection.' I said, 'but what's the answer?'

"The clerk drew a long breath as if for an extended lecture, and picked up one of the tobacco tag: 'This,' he said, 'is a metleek. It is worth eleven-twelfths of a half-penny. Five of these coppers make a metleek - only not quite - that is - here in Beirut - in Damascus five of them make a metleek and a little more. Ten metleeks make a bishleek.' He picked up one of the coins the owner of which would be arrested, in a civilized country, for carrying concealed weapons, 'one bishleek - that is - except one and a half of these copper coins - that is - here - in Damascus ten metleeks make a bishleek and four coppers - except not quite - and in Sidon they make the same as in Damascus - only a little less - and these coins are worth the same as a bishleek - except not quite - that is - here - if they have a hole in them they are worth a copper and three-fourths - more - that is, here - in Damascus they are worth a copper and a one-fourth more, and this dish-shaped one is worth three bishleeks and three metleeks and two coppers and sometimes three-fourths of a copper more, except they with holes in them which are worth two metleeks and a copper and a half more, and this mejeedieh is worth in Damascus seven bishleeks and seven metleeks and two coppers and sometimes three and sometimes here not so much by two and a half coppers and in Jerusalem -'.

"'And suppose it is a rainy day?'

"'Oh, that does not make any difference.' said the clerk, with owl-like solemnity, 'but sometimes on busy days, as on feast days, the bishleek is worth three coppers and a half more - that is, here - in Damascus it is worth two more and sometimes not so much - as in Ramadan, and in Sidon it is worth three-fourths of a copper less and in - here in Beirut -'.....

"'Now, in carting this around -' I asked, 'you don't hire a porter' -.

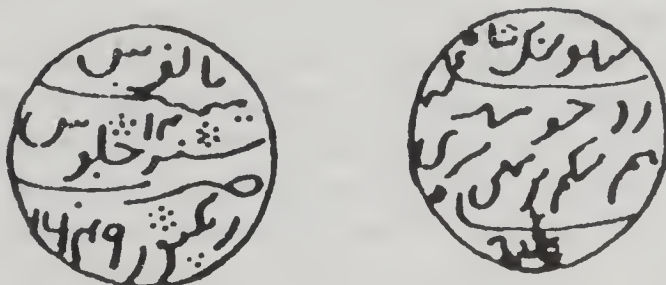
"'Ah,' said the clerk, 'you have not the large purse? Our Syrians carry a purse which is very long, which is long like the stocking which it is said are worn by the lady; but if you have not such a long purse and you have not any ladies -'. I drew out a large handkerchief and fell to taking the heap of coins into it. 'Ah,' he cried, 'that does very good, only you do not forget that in Damascus the mejeedieh is worth seven bishleek and seven metleek and two coppers and sometimes -', but I had escaped into the silence outside."

Taken from *A Vagabond Journey
Around the World*, by Harry Franck,
p.112-2.

Editor: (What a wonderful time we could have now going through this little hoard if it had been preserved intact until today? Can anyone identify some of the coins mentioned in the descriptive exchange for a sovereign. Well the sovereign could have been either a Victoria or Edward VII and the 10 Franc could have been a Napoleon III Y-34 or Y-39, or perhaps the republican Y-59, but more likely the current Y-65 with the rooster on the reverse. Perhaps someone else can identify the Turkish coins.)

ON ŚAKA 1648-49 COINS OF SIVA SIMHA - Correction of illustration

In the above titled article by Jai Prakash Singh, published in the April, 1991 issue of the *NI BULLETIN* (p. 82), the wrong photograph was used for illustration of coin c) - the round coin with Persian script and with the title *shah* for Queen Pramathesvari. Nicholas Rhodes has now been able to supply the below illustrated line drawing of this interesting coin.



BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

ACUNANCIONES PREVISIGODAS Y VISIGODS EN HISPANIA, DESDE HONORIO A ACHILA II, Vol. II of "Catalogo General de las Monedas Espanolas," by Maria Jose y Rafael Chaves. Editorial Vico-Segarra, Madrid, 1984. 186 pages, hardbound. Available from Dale Seppa, 103 Sixth Avenue North, Virginia, MN 55792. Price is US\$40.00 plus \$2.00 postage in the United States. Foreign registered seamail \$7.00.

The occupation of the Iberian Peninsula by Germanic tribes from 409 to 711 put an end to over 500 years of thorough Latinization under Roman rule. In turn, the Swabians, Vandals, and Visigoths, with various other groups, came to control the populace of ancient Hispania. Indeed, a large portion of the Western Roman world was besieged, if not wholly inundated by the constant west and southward thrust of the migrating "barbarous peoples," as the author terms them. What is genuinely suprising is the extent to which the Latinized coinage and culture remained as unchanging as they did.

The rare coinage covered in this tome begins as semi-faithful copies of the Byzantine gold solidius from the era of Honorius and Valentinian. Gothic coinage retained this basic mold, generally appearing as a one-third solidius, or triens, while exhibiting the Visigoth monarch's portrait, along with his name and that of one of the numerous Spanish mints.

While representative examples of nearly 600 different types (including over 100 counterfeits!) are illustrated, described, and priced in Spanish pesetas, it is the meticulous attention to historical detail which merits the attention of the vast majority of numismatists who may never collect these pieces personally. Not only are many pages devoted to an interesting cultural-anthropological study of the effects of the Germanic occupation on early Spanish Catholicism, but social/legal customs and artistic/scientific development are also explored in depth. Numerous tables, generally chronological in nature, as well as maps, keys to identification of rulers and inscriptions, and an extended bibliography will amaze a reader who has never given Spanish coinage of the Visigoths much thought. Interestingly enough, those Gothic issues which do not reside in private Spanish collections are largely to be found in the collection of the Hispanic Society of America in New York City, where they were studied and photographed by the authors.

This reviewer was most fascinated by Rodrigo, the last Visigoth king, who was betrayed to the invading Arab general Tarik through familial palace intrigue. The Germanic clan, or *Sippe*, form of absolutist feudal rule was given to frequent internecine treachery, despite carefully arranged marriages for reasons of State among the various clans, including the indigenous Spanish population. After a valiant stand, Rodrigo and his Gothic armies were annihilated and his bride given to Tarik, governor of Africa in the name of the Caliph of Damascus. Thus began, in effect, a new dynastic line, whose successors would occupy, and change forever, nearly the whole of Spain in the ensuing 750 years, ending only with the Fall of Granada to Isabel and Ferdinand in 1492. Tarik's advanced base camp for his invasion was, incidentally, a great rock named *Gebel-al-Tarik* ("Mother of Tarik" in Arabic), and known forever after to the world as "Gibraltar."

Fascinating or not, these tales will only be fully accessible to those with a fairly good reading knowledge of Spanish, or extensive knowledge of the subject. Still, the excellent illustrations, photographs, and easy-to-follow tables with descriptions are worth the price of the book to those who would like to make contact with this neglected series.

Reviewed by David B. Fiero.



Identifying Coins, Medals & Tokens: Late Antiquity to Modern Times. A Bibliographical Survey of Useful Articles. By Gregory Brunk. Laurion Numismatics, 1991. 145 pages. Available from Dale Seppa, 103 Sixth Avenue North, Virginia, MN 55792. Price is \$35.00 plus \$3.00 postage.

Dr. Gregory Brunk, a prolific author well-known for his works on countermarked coinage, can now be said to have produced his first truly indispensable work. What began as a bibliography for his own research purposes has become "an attempt to bring together in an organized manner citations to all English language articles that one may find useful when attributing coins, medals, tokens, and related items, and it also includes important articles written in other Western languages." Quite simply, the author's purpose is to inform researchers, cataloguers, and the curious of what is "out there."

Such an undertaking was especially crucial because of a constantly recurring pattern, in which items are claimed to be "newly discovered," "unpublished," or even "unidentifiable" because it would be too much trouble to track down long forgotten articles in journals one may not have at hand. Many times, however, as Brunk points out, the item or topic in question has been known or researched for generations, if one only knew where to begin looking.

Since the scope of this bibliography is general rather than specialized, spanning nearly 15 centuries of numismatic production, it can in no sense be complete. Indeed, only a well-funded institution could hope to finish such a project by the end of this century. Still, for a one-man effort, this bibliography is nothing short of extraordinary. In an introduction fascinating to read, a number of research tips are given. These concern ways of determining quickly whether a promising citation is a major work or just a short research note, a journalistic essay, a scholarly treatise on some obscure technical topic, or a general survey of a coinage series. Where the title of an article does not make these distinctions clear, some annotations and/or translations have been undertaken.

Using a format similar to that of the *SCWC*, listings have been categorized geographically, except where, as is the case with large medieval states (Byzantine Empire, Crusader Kingdoms of the Holy Land, Holy Roman Empire, etc.), these do not correspond to any modern country, in which case separate listings are used. In addition, categories such as Dynasties, Tokens and Medals, or Special Topics have been utilized with great efficiency.

This reviewer noticed a tendency, especially in such vast areas as British and German numismatics, to cite articles appearing in older scholarly journals rather than modern,

popular periodicals or newspapers. In so doing, Dr. Brunk hails the shining example of the American Numismatic Society's *Numismatic Literature* as the model he has tried to follow, while going back in time to over a century before its 1947 inception.

As Brunk notes, "[t]hese older articles often explain in detail many aspects of a coinage that are taken for granted by more recent authors; they may reprint the exact text of coin legends; and they may present many line drawings that are no longer economically feasible to reproduce. In fact, many of the older articles are of more use in the identification of coins than are their modern counterparts." He goes on to express his hope that publishers might realize just what a wealth of older literature exists, much of it highly suitable to reprinting.

As far as the physical format of this book is concerned, the only noticeable drawback is the extremely small typeface, probably necessitated by the need to condense what would have been a thick, hardcover tome into an affordable, portable paperback directory. As Brunk's effort proves its worth and is inevitably expanded over time, it is to be hoped that future editions can be upgraded in terms of durability and readability. Even in its present format, *A Bibliographical Survey of Useful Articles* represents a unique breakthrough in numismatic publishing, one which should be acquired, and used actively, by the entire numismatic research and cataloguing community.

Reviewed by David B. Fiero.



A Check List of 20th Century Coinage of the World. Compiled by James-Edward Klish, L.A. Press, Virginia, 1991. 24 pages. Available from Dale Seppa, 103 Sixth Avenue North, Virginia, MN 55792. Price is \$5.00 postpaid.

As the twentieth century moves inexorably through its final decade, the rate of change continues to increase in all fields of endeavor. As in the physical sciences, the world's geopolitical situation also show tendencies towards simplification (such as the unification of the two German states) and short term bonding (the attempt to make Kuwait the "19th Province" of Iraq!). Even a flirtation with maximum randomness (the potential "ungluing" of the Soviet Union?) can be distinguished.

In such times, one method of forming a "universal collection"--otherwise a virtually impossible challenge--has been to collect one specimen of the coinage of each issuing entity. Although keeping up to date with current events is a formidable task in itself, it is hoped that Klish's work will aid the generalist, or modern-day "universal collector," who wishes to approach numismatics from this angle. Hopefully Klish will produce additional booklets which will cover the other centuries.

The degree of completeness of such a collection will, hopefully, take a back seat to the knowledge acquired in its pursuit. For those new to numismatists, this somewhat convoluted sentence simply means that collections of this nature often take a few years to arrive at ninety percent completeness, and a lifetime to nearly finish the final ten percent. Therefore, if completeness is the goal as opposed to the knowledge acquired, the collector is doomed to frustration from the beginning.

This unassuming little work gives the new or advanced collector the basic tool to begin this type of collection. Certainly Klish has reinvented, yet also updated, the wheel by unknowingly following in the footsteps of the late Lee Grossman. Grossman's *Checklist of Medieval and Modern Coinage* set the pattern for this type of work and was used by hundreds, if not thousands, of collectors for over a decade until it became unavailable.

Klish's research sources will be considered scanty, at best, by some--basically only the excellent *SCWC* was used, along with standard geographical and historical works, to arrive at this listing. While it is true that the *SCWC*, in relation to the amount of information included, is virtually gratis, it is equally true that many new collectors will not pay thirty or forty dollars for a book, no matter how excellent or complete it is. Also, regardless of excellence, the *SCWC* (and its recent 20th Century spin-off) does not fit easily in your back pocket. It should be noted that Krause Publications generously granted permission to use KM numbers in the work and the author plans to use them in subsequent editions.

Reviewed by David B. Fiero.

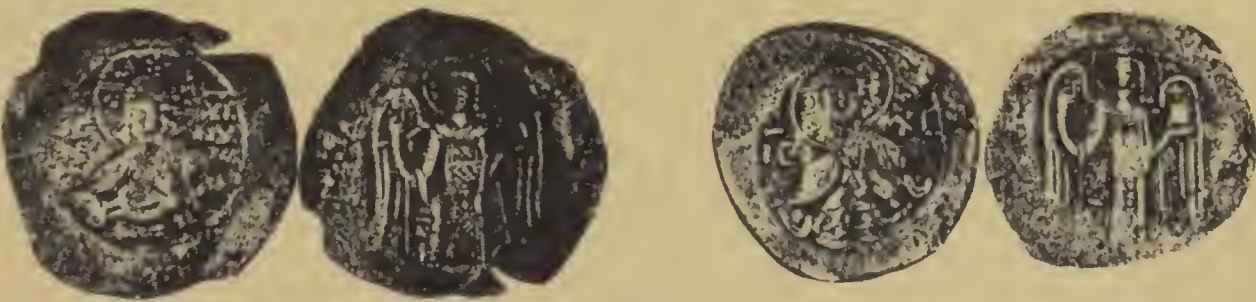


AN INTRODUCTION TO BYZANTINE COINAGE

R. R. Kutcher, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #1289

No. 72 - DEMETRIUS ANGELUS COMNENUS DUCAS (DESPOT 1244-1246)

Demetrius was removed as Despot of Thessalonica in 1246, by John Vatatzes, when he incorporated all of the remaining parts of the Thessalonian Empire into his own Empire of Nicaea. No coins of Demetrius have been identified, however, a series of bronze nomismata of irregular shapes, could have been issued during the reigns of the Despots John and his brother Demetrius. These coins have on their obverse the half figure of St. Michael, winged, facing, or of St. Demetrius, the martyr



saint of Thessalonica. The reverse has a bust of Christ, beardless and facing. It is possible too, that the billon trachea of a neat, elegant style, should be attributed to the mint of Thessalonica during the period 1242-1246. Two of these coins are shown above.

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Mark Smith, 610 Douglas St., Apt. A104, Durham, N.C. 27705: I am interested in ancient coins of Numidia, Nabatea and other North African (excluding Carthage) and Arabian Kingdoms. If possible send polaroids or rubbings and I will give you my best price.

Don Sullivan, 5962 W. 76th St., Los Angeles, CA 90045: WANTED - Back issues of the *BOLETIN* journal published by the Mexican Numismatic Society. Please send a list of what you have to sell or trade so I can complete my collection. I do have some extras if you are also looking.

Donald S. Yarab, 2739 Noble Road, #1, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121: Grand Master Lascaris Castellar (1636-57) placed a counterstamp of an eagle on Maltese copper coins. Usually this is in a circular indent, but it occurs also in the shape of a spade or a rectangle. Donald S. Yarab and Paul F. L. de Groot are interested in finding out more about the distribution of the various forms of this counterstamp on the coins, and would like to receive the following information from collectors who own some of these coins: what shape of stamp is placed on what kind of coin (denomination and issuer, particularly a distinction between Lascaris and his predecessors).

Phil Wing, P. O. Drawer 58204, Cincinnati, OH 45258: British Coins Wanted - All Hammered silver and gold coins Fine or Better. All silver coins 1660-1760 VF or better. All gold Guineas VF or better. Will buy for cash or trade for other coins. Please send or write.

John L. Pieratt, 2635 S. Hydraulic, 32C, Wichita, KS 67216: Buyer Beware! French Cochín, Indo China, Annam, Tonkin, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (mostly Indo China). The last 15 years I've done up a track record of the key coins, a 40+ page story. Investment-wise it's horrible. You can take a complete set of Indo China minors, crowns, piastres and a few will sell. You will be stuck with the common. Have you experienced this when you wanted to sell?

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NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS FROM SELECTED LITERATURE

"MANCUS: An Anglo-Saxon coin in both gold and silver. In the reign of Ethelbert of Kent, money-accounts were kept in pounds, mancuses, shillings, and pence. Five pence = one shilling; 30 pence - one mancus."

Taken from p. 706, Brewer's
Dictionary of Phrase & Fable.

(Submitted by Tutivillus)